

1 CLAIMS

2 1. An electronic coupon processing system comprising:

3 a coupon data base containing coupon information associated to a consumer;

4 a system for recording product information sold to a consumer at a store;

5 a system for reconciling the coupon information in the coupon data base with the

6 product information sold to the consumer; and

7 means for updating the coupon data base to reflect utilization of coupons.

8 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising access means for a consumer to access the coupon

9 data base to review their account information.

10 ~~3. The system of claim 2 wherein the access means includes access through the Internet.~~

11 ~~4. The system of claim 1 further comprising access means for the consumer to access their~~

12 ~~information in the coupon data base at the store.~~

13 ~~5. The system of claim 4 wherein the access means comprises a printout of the information in~~

14 ~~the coupon data base.~~

15 ~~6. The system of claim 1 further comprising means for entering coupon information into the~~

16 ~~coupon data base.~~

17 ~~7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a scanner to enter coupon information to the coupon~~

18 ~~data base.~~

19 ~~8. An electronic coupon processing system comprising:~~

20 means for entering data from coupons into a data base;

21 a coupon data base containing coupon information associated to a consumer;

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1 a check-out register capable of recording product information sold to a consumer;
2 a system for reconciling the coupon information in the coupon data base with the
3 product information sold to the consumer; and
4 means for updating the coupon data base to reflect utilization of coupons.

5 9. The system of claim 8 further comprising access means for a consumer to access the coupon
6 data base to review their account information.

7 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the access means includes access through the Internet.

8 11. The system of claim 8 further comprising access means for the consumer to access their
9 information in the coupon data base at the store.

10 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the access means comprises a printout of the information in
11 the coupon data base.

12 13. The system of claim 8 further comprising a scanner to enter coupon information to the
13 coupon data base.

14 14. A method for electronic coupon processing comprising:

15 entering coupon information of any consumer into a coupon data base, where the coupon
16 information is attributed to the consumer;

17 reading product information sold to the consumer at a store;

18 reconciling the coupon data base information with the product information sold to the
19 consumer;

20 deducting any discount or rebate from the consumer charges based on the reconciliation;

21 and updating the coupon data base to reflect the reconciliation.

1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising providing controlled access by consumers to the
2 coupon data base.

3 16. The method of claim 15 wherein access is through the Internet.

4 17. The method of claim 14 further comprising providing controlled access to the coupon data
5 base at the store.

6 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the access is in the form of a printout of the coupon
7 information.

8 19. The method of claim 14 further comprising the utilization of a code scanner to enter the
9 coupon information into the coupon data base.

10 20. The method of claim 14 wherein the coupon data base is shared by more than one store.

11 21. A method for electronic processing of discount coupons comprising:

12 entering coupon information of any consumer into a coupon data base where the coupon

13 information is attributed and accessible to the consumer;

14 reading product information sold to the consumer at a store;

15 reconciling the coupon data base information with the product information sold to the
16 consumer;

17 deducting any discount or rebate from the consumer charges based on the reconciliation;

18 and updating the coupon data base to reflect the reconciliation.

19 22. A method for electronic processing of discount coupons comprising:

20 reading coupon information with a bar code scanner and sending the coupon information

21 to a data base where the coupon information is attributed to a specific consumer;

1 scanning information of products chosen by a consumer at a check out register having the
2 capability to identify the consumer in relation to the coupon data base;
3 reconciling the coupon information with the register information and providing any
4 applicable discount to the consumer at the register;
5 updating the data base to reflect purchases and discounts given at the register;
6 sending the coupon information and register information to a source for reimbursement
7 to vendor; and
8 sending consumer information relating to either purchases, coupons or both to a data
9 center.

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